

Our Threefold Aim: To give
the News of Berea and Vicinity;
To Record the Happenings of
Berea College; To be of Interest
to all the Mountain People.

The Builders of Berea's Business

We are dedicating this issue of The Citizen to the town of Berea. We find that space will not allow us to give credit to all the men who have helped to build Berea's business and those who are carrying it on at the present time, therefore we have decided to give a brief history of some of the early business enterprises, including those that have continued down to the present time. Berea might be said to be divided into two periods: the founding period following the Civil War, and the period of business expansion beginning about 1880. The years prior to 1880 were uneventful for business, though very eventful for Berea College.

The first man to sell goods in Berea was J. C. Coyle. He began in the '60's. At first he was located on what is now called Boone street, but soon left that place and entered the brick building which now stands on the south side of the street across from the S. E. Welch building. This brick building had been erected for



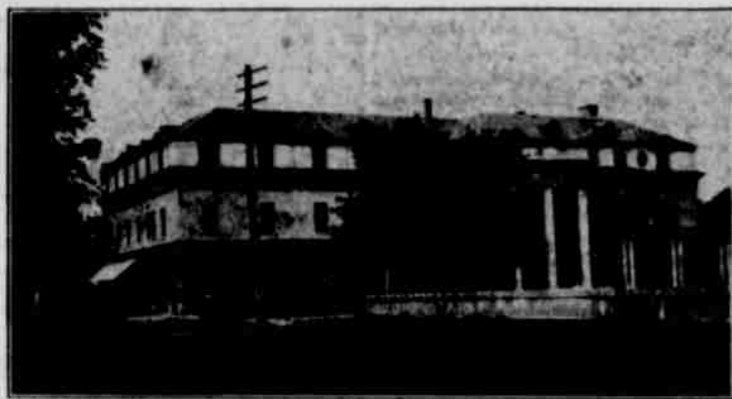
One of Berea's First Buildings

him. Mr. Coyle still lives in Berea, but has been retired for a number of years.

The second merchant to set up in business was Lou Embree. Then came Elisha Whitt, who kept a store and hotel on Maine street.

In 1882 A. T. Fish opened his first general store in Berea. From one small building he supplied all the wants of the community. The store was a small frame building standing near the present public school building. The dry-goods, clothing, groceries and hardware were housed in one room. Mr. Fish was the first merchant to sell peanuts and bananas in Berea. Many people in the neighborhood had never seen either. Mr. Fish also purchased the first buggy that was ever brought to Berea, in 1884. John G. Fee, founder of Berea College, owned a phaeton, and he and Mr. Fish became the objects of curiosity as they drove out in town when the streets were good. Fish expanded his business to include lumber and tan bark, all of which was discontinued by his death in 1902.

In 1890 Mrs. Jennie B. Fish, wife of A. T. Fish, opened her first millinery store, spoken of by the surrounding community as "Fish's Hat Shop." Her first bill of hats reached Berea on Thursday. She opened them up and put them on display on Fri-



One of Berea's Modern Buildings—Boone Tavern.

day and sold every one Saturday, and the whole community was supplied. Mrs. Fish's millinery business has continued with success down to the present time.

In the fall of 1883 J. J. Brannaman purchased the store and hotel from Elisha Whitt. It was not his intention to keep the hotel, but necessity forced him to provide a place for travelers to stop. He remained in business at the same stand until he retired in 1910, when he sold to J. R. Richardson, R. R. Coyle and Berea College.

In 1885 B. F. Gay established a store on the corner of what is now the public school grounds. He remained in business in and around Berea until the year 1895, when he retired from active life.

E. T. Fish entered business with P. B. Johnson in 1881. Later

he bought out his partner and erected the store building on Main street now occupied by the Hays Meat Market. In those days there were no stone streets, no side walks, no water and no lights in Berea. E. T. Fish has been a promoter of business from the beginning. He built up and put on a permanent basis the Berea Telephone Company in 1895. He built the Berea Canning Factory, of which he is still manager. He has been the untiring promoter of the Berea Fair Association, and a few years ago moved to the country, where he made a beautiful and productive farm of one that had been worked to death. He is now opening up a new roller and grist mill in the old Burdette stand. E. T. Fish has ever been a promoter of business.

A man widely known and connected with the early history of Berea was Joe Burdette. When a young man he came to Berea in 1862. Being a carpenter, he was connected with the erection of more buildings, both private and those of the College, probably than any other man in his time. Besides assisting in the erection of most of the early buildings of the

College, he had the supervision of the erection of Lincoln Hall, Howard Hall, Industrial and Bruce Buildings, Library and Chapel. In 1900 he purchased the planing mill erected by George Ames and Charles Lester. This saw and planing mill was a very important industry in the early building of Berea. Besides furnishing much of the material for the buildings of the town, much lumber was manufactured for the early College buildings.

The village was incorporated soon after Mr. Fish began his business life. He was the prime mover in this matter and the Honorable W. B. Smith, who was then the representative from this county, secured the charter from the Legislature. The first council consisted of E. T. Fish, Professor L. V. Dodge, A. J. Hanson, Joe Burdette and Richard Cornellison; and it was about this time that the L. & N. Railroad was built thru Berea.

About thirty-two years ago, as the United States was entering the period of greatest commercial expansion, there came to Berea an unusual man. Samuel E. Welch came from Jackson county and opened a general store which, twenty-five years later, was one of the greatest stores of its kind in Kentucky. He began with five thousand dollars capital and at his death left a business worth a

hundred and fifty thousand dollars. His entire business was at first in one room. He then built a dry goods store, and later built another store for groceries, another for hardware, and another for feed, and then another for furniture, and then another for drugs. He did his own buying, was his own manager, for many years he kept his own books and at all times knew how every department of his great business stood. A short while before he died he helped to establish a National Bank, and became its president. The Welch business was continued and enlarged by his son, John W. Welch, who recently, at the great surprise of the entire town, divided up the business and sold it in many parts to new merchants. We will make mention of the successors of the Welch Department Stores in another issue. S. E. Welch

Where Former Slaves Find Rest



Old negro folk, who were slaves in the South before the Civil war, cared for by the government at Blue Plains home, near Washington. There, the negroes, many of whom have passed the age of ninety, find rest and comfort.

was a great benefactor to this community, in that he taught economical buying through cash buying, and he also brought the prices of commodities down to the reach of the poor farmer. Mr. Welch's death was a business loss to the community.

Mr. J. J. Brannaman for a number of years provided the hotel accommodations of the town, but later we became minus any good hotel accommodations. This fact was the cause of the erection of Boone Tavern in 1909 by Berea College. Since its erection the Tavern has had two additions. Traveling men and visitors find the Boone Tavern to be one of the most home-like and comfortable hotels in Kentucky. People who used to go to neighboring towns to spend the week-end now come to Berea.

Berea's oldest bank is the Berea Bank & Trust Company, founded in 1901 by W. H. Porter and a number of Berea citizens. Mr. Porter became the cashier. From the beginning down to the present time the bank has had a successful career, taking care of the business needs of the depositors and making both large and small loans. J. F. Dean, the present cashier, is well known throughout this and adjoining counties.

Berea's second bank is a National Bank, founded by S. E. Welch, its first president, and J. L. Gay, the cashier, in cooperation with a number of townspeople and farmers. The Berea National Bank has been strong from the beginning for two or three particular reasons. People had confidence in the business ability of its president, S. E. Welch, the conservative business methods of the cashier, and in the fact that it was a national bank. We are proud of our two banks in Berea, and feel that through the proper management and cooperation they are sufficient to take care of the finances of this community.

The Berea Telephone Company, which has grown continually since its founding, more than twenty years ago, owes its existence and expansion to four men: E. T. Fish, Fay Hanson, W. H. Porter and J. W. Creech. Since the discontinuance of telegraph service in Berea, the Berea Telephone Company has handled all the business of the Western Union Telegraph Company. This company has more than 100 miles of pole lines, a system of cables in town, and the total equipment represents an outlay of \$45,000. The new president and general manager of the company is Robert Duerson.

We are aware that this review of the early history of Berea's business development is incomplete. We may have omitted some names that should have been mentioned, but we have not done it purposely. There are some other men who have been in business here for a long time, and we intend to speak of them in a later article.

We shall be pleased to hear from our subscribers who have anything of interest to tell us of the past. If this one is of interest to you, we shall appreciate your help in the next one.

To Avoid the Rush.

Soldier, just back from his harvest furrow, to the sergeant—"My father wants to know if I'll get another furrow at Christmas. Here is the picture of the pig that is going to be killed."—Flegende Blatter.

U. S. News

Washington, Dec. 5.—A total of 3,808 persons were killed in automobile accidents or died as the result of injuries therefrom, during the last year.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Mrs. Warren G. Harding, wife of the President-elect, accepted an invitation from Mrs. Wilson and had tea at the White House this afternoon.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary Baker was asked today by the House military committee to appear before it Friday and explain why the War Department has recruited an army of more than 180,000.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Both Houses of Congress were in brief session today to hear President Wilson's annual message. It was read by the clerk, for Mr. Wilson having heeded the advice of his physician not to appear in person to present his address.

Geneva, Dec. 6.—Consideration of an amendment to the covenant of the League of Nations which would eliminate Article X, has been postponed by the assembly of the League of Nations until the next meeting.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge headed a committee which called at the White House today to inform President Wilson that Congress was in session and ready to receive communications from him. It was the first meeting between the President and Senator Lodge since before the peace treaty was defeated in the Senate under Lodge's leadership.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 4.—Returning to American shores today from his vacation voyage, President-elect Harding received a rousing welcome from the Virginia tidewater cities and responded with a message of renewed national confidence and unity.

Geneva, Dec. 3.—Presentation and adoption of a resolution eliminating Article X from the covenant of the League of Nations before the end of the present session of the assembly would occasion no surprise here, it was declared in some quarters when the assembly began its meeting this morning.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Immediate loans of \$60,000,000 from government funds to aid farmers in the face of falling prices of their products is proposed by Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, Democrat Nebraska, in a bill drawn today after a conference with Governor Harding of the Federal Reserve Board. Senator Hitchcock plans to present the measure when Congress meets next week.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Senator Capper, of Kansas, today made public his proposed bill to stop gambling in foodstuffs and cotton.

A tax of 10 percent, designed to be prohibitive on "future" trading in grain and cotton, except by actual owners or a limited class of traders under Federal license, is the basic feature of the Capper bill, which is to be introduced in the Senate next week by the author, and in the House by

Kentucky News

The urgent necessity of obtaining more teachers for the Kentucky schools is stressed in a letter received Monday by M. A. Cassidy, superintendent of the Lexington Public Schools from State Superintendent of Public Instruction George Colvin.

Louisville, Dec. 6.—O. H. Wathen, president of the Old Grand Dad Distilling Company, and W. F. Knebelkamp, manager, were arrested this afternoon by United States Marshal E. H. James, charged with conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with a shipment of 1,000 cases of whisky to Chicago recently.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—The Twenty-first International Livestock Exposition opened its gates Saturday, November 27, with a record attendance and more than 10,000 entries. The exhibits were much larger than usual in all departments. To Kentucky comes the first International Grand Champion Hereford bull award she has ever won. Senator J. N. Camden, of Versailles, won the honor with the junior yearling bull Princeps Domino, No. 193463, the bull, his manager, J. C. Kuyser, purchased at the Denver show last winter for \$7,100.

Middlesboro, Dec. 2.—Middlesboro officials of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad have been advised that a contract has been let in Louisville for the construction of 2,000 coal cars for the company at a cost of \$5,200,000. This contract was awarded to the Mt. Vernon Car Works and the American Car and Foundry Company. Deliveries will begin January 1 at the rate of twenty-five cars a day for each plant.

Richmond, Dec. 4.—Miss Lelia Patridge, 77 years old, for twelve years teacher of method in the Eastern State Normal School here, was fatally injured when she was struck by a truck tonight. Miss Patridge was crossing the street when the truck hit her. She was taken at once to Patti M. Clay Infirmary, where it was found that her neck was broken. She died soon after.

Nine fully equipped moonshine stills of from 50 to 100 gallons capacity, 6,500 gallons of still beer and 100 gallons of moonshine whisky were seized by federal agents in the raid in the "South America" district of Whitley county that followed a pitched battle Saturday between thirty alleged moonshiners and fourteen prohibition agents and United States deputy marshals, according to reports Sunday afternoon.

One of the alleged moonshiners was seriously wounded or killed in the skirmish which preceded the actual battle, prohibition agents reported. He was unidentified.

Frankfort, Dec. 3.—"Gun-toting and whiskey-running in Kentucky must stop," said Governor Edwin P. Morrow in a statement issued here today in explanation of his refusal recently to commute jail sentences of a number of persons convicted of carrying concealed weapons and selling or bringing liquor into the State.

President W. J. Hutchins, of Berea College, was chosen to head the Association of Kentucky Colleges and Universities for the coming year at the fifteenth annual meeting held in the Little Theatre at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington, Saturday. Dean Karl T. Waugh gave an address on "Intelligence Tests for College Entrance and Vocational Training."

Representative Tinscher, Republican, of Kansas.

More than three thousand immigrants are coming into Ellis Island almost daily. More than one million will be the count for the fiscal year 1920-1921. More than ten million are now waiting in various parts of war-stricken Europe, to swarm to the United States as soon as they can obtain transportation.

These millions are not immigrants in the strict sense of the term. Many of them are refugees—refugees from lands that have been harassed and torn by war and treason for six years; refugees from countries that offer them little now but discontent, dissension, unhappiness, impoverished living conditions and disease.

World News

The Council of the League of Nations has determined to send forces to Vilna, in Russia, to preserve order while the plebiscite of the people is being taken to determine whether that province shall belong to Poland or Lithuania. Spain was asked to furnish a contingent and was glad to do so, considering it an honor to be asked. Belgium and France will also send forces. In this case the object is to keep order and preserve peace and not to make war. It is a new use of force and is in line with the League. The result will be watched with interest.

It is reported that the Russians have secured control of Armenia and that a Soviet Republic has been set up. This brings to Armenia a new set of circumstances, but there is little promise of peace or security in it. It is more likely to be one more cause of suffering and death. Just as this news came to us, another report announced the acceptance by President Wilson of the task of solving the Armenia problem. He had already agreed to aid in drawing the boundary lines, but the new request includes considerably more. He was careful to make it clear that use of force must not be expected unless Congress consents.

The widow of Terence McSwiney, the voluntary victim of starvation, in Ireland, has landed in New York City. Her reception was enthusiastic and a large number of people were assembled at the dock as the vessel came in. Among these were the Mayor of New York and the wife of the Governor of the State. She had little to say, but is going to Washington for a conference, and her presence is likely to arouse sympathy for Irish independence; and it is believed she desires to secure the intervention of the United States in some form, if that be possible.

The representative of the Republic of Argentina, at the meeting of the League of Nations, in Geneva, has announced his purpose to withdraw because the decision was reached to postpone amendments of the Covenant to a later time. It is evident that changes are to be made and are desired, but it seemed an evidence of good judgment that the League should make its first meeting constructive and positive and not open the way for destructive and negative influences at a time when people are looking for results that will inspire confidence.

Many Germans are planning to migrate as soon as possible. Colonies in Mexico are planned where there is abundant opportunity for development of the country and its resources. It has been clear for many years that Germany understands the value of the Latin American countries. There are many settlers in Brazil, Venezuela, Chile and other countries of South America. Germany has known how to meet the needs and habits of the merchants of Latin America better than England or the United States. Excluded as she is now, from old centers of trade, it is to be expected that Germany will seek to strengthen herself in Latin America.

The problem of Greece is coming to be a perplexing one to the nations of Europe. The people seem to desire the return of Constantine, but France and England fear that he would open a way for German influence again in the Balkans. Greece has secured so much additional territory as a result of the war that its position is much stronger than it has been before. The people would not be likely to give up this added territory and influence, and the Allies do not dare to entrust it to a relative of the Hohenzollerns.

The Home Rule Bill is being discussed by the House of Lords, regardless of the acts of terrorism that are taking place. Lord Grey, Foreign Minister of England at the outbreak of the World War, is leading an appeal for liberal dealing with Ireland. He has not suggested that the demand for independence be granted, but he asks for a more elastic bill—one that will allow of more changes and response to the wish of the people. His plea is not apparently meeting much sympathy among the Lords.